

# The Tech

VOLUME 92 NUMBER 12

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1972

MIT, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

FIVE CENTS

## Faculty extends pass/fail

By Lee Giguere

Stymied by the question of medical school policies towards pass/fail grading in the freshman year, the MIT faculty refused to institute freshman pass/fail on an indefinite basis but voted instead to continue it for another year.

Professor of Economics and Political Science Everett Hagen, chairman of the Committee for Evaluation of Freshman Performance (CEFP), introduced its recommendation to continue pass/fail grading indefinitely, but after extended discussion of the difficulties raised by medical school admissions policies (and with the rising interest in pre-medical education among MIT undergraduates), accepted an amendment limiting the continuation to a single year.

The CEFP's proposals appeared headed for easy approval when, after Rogers voiced the Committee on Educational Policy's support of the measure, no one responded to President Jerome Wiesner's call for discussion. Professor of Nutrition Emily Wick, however, stood to voice her uneasiness over the question of medical

schools, starting the discussion, which, baring the faculty's concern over the fate of MIT undergraduates seeking careers in education, led to the decision to continue pass/fail for only a single year.

In other business, the faculty approved a change in its regulations, deleting 5.01 as an option satisfying the freshman chemistry requirement (the Chemistry Department will no longer offer the subject) at the recommendation of the Committee on Curriculum (COC). Associate Professor of Civil Engineering Richard de Neufville, COC chairman, also reported to the faculty on the establishment of a new field for upper class humanities concentration, Urban Studies and Planning, and the approval of advanced placement for freshman humanities.

Introducing the CEFP's motions, Hagen began by emphasizing that the question of freshman pass/fail "has nothing to do" with the extension of pass/fail to all four years of undergraduate education. The freshman year, he argued, is unique — the incoming student experiences "a good deal of anxiety." The aim of the proposal, Hagen continued, is to alter the pattern of "a game for grades rather than an emphasis on education." Admitting that there are some abuses of the pass/fail system, Hagen advanced that "those cases are few relative to the large number of freshman for whom [pass/fail] is good."

As Hagen broached it, the question of the medical school admissions policies is whether or not it "impairs the attainment of the purpose" of pass/fail. Faced with large numbers of applicants (20 to 50 times the number of available places) the medical schools, Hagen said, are "looking for easy screening devices." He admitted, however, that there might be some discrimination against students who don't have letter grades.

Concluding, Hagen expressed his hope that the faculty would

vote on pass/fail, understanding that if the data shows that the medical school problem is serious, the decision can be changed. (He also introduced a second motion for the CEFP, to set up a two year pass/no-record experiment in the freshman year. This motion was not acted on.)

Following Wick's statement of reservation, Rogers announced that he had appointed a nine member committee, headed by Associate Professor of Psychology Alan Hein and Professor of Physics Robert Hulsizer, to contact medical schools and collect information about admissions policies.

Wick then raised the question of whether, as had been suggested, MIT should prevent students from taking organic chemistry in their freshman year if they are ready for it then. However, Professor of Biology Bernard Gould commented that it wasn't simply a problem of grades in organic chemistry, it is possible, he noted, for MIT students to complete all their pre-med requirements in their freshman year.

Chancellor Paul Gray, who had been on the CEP when the pass/fail experiment was initiated, rose to explain what he felt was the original intent of freshman pass/fail. The intent, he said, had been to remove "unnecessary and unproductive" pressure of recorded grades, but not to remove the pressure to adjust to a new environment. Further, he stated that the intent had been for the student to have more access to the kind of information that would allow him to assess his own program.

Provost Walter Rosenblith suggested that as an interim solution, the faculty vote to continue pass/fail for one year. In addition, Rosenblith stated that MIT "should now think about these things in more detail." Hagen immediately accepted the amendment to continue pass/fail for one year.

## Dormcon elects chairman

By Jim Moody

The Dormitory Council held its annual elections last Tuesday in McCormick's Green Room. Rick Goettke, a junior from East Campus was chosen the new Chairman. Dan King, a Senior House sophomore, was elected Secretary-Treasurer, and Tony Loh, a junior from East Campus, was elected Judicial Committee Chairman.

The report of the old Judicial Committee Chairman, Mark Aquino, was first read into the record. He stated that the main activity of the Judcom centered around the incident of confiscation of marijuana by the Campus Patrol at MacGregor last fall. He called for an increased budget, more meetings of the Judcom, and more communication between the Campus Patrol, the faculty, Judcom, and the members of the Dormcon Judcom.

Dormcon's income was reported as approximately \$900; \$3.50 from each resident's house tax. The money was used for various activities, such as R/O Week, and expenditures were \$26 more than income. This

reduced the year-to-year balance from \$811 to \$785. Next, the election of new Dormcon representatives was validated 9-0-2 by the former officers.

Two problems were outlined: the fact that Dormcon had no real goal to work toward, and the fact that Dormcon is made up of house presidents, already very busy within their own houses. These problems contributed to Dormcon's not getting as much done as it might have, or could have. It was stated that Dormcon needs a sense of communication and cooperation between the presidents, so something more can be done.

Mike Wilson, past Chairman, stated that he was "quite flattered that Baker took us seriously enough to want to secede." He also stated that "the UAP represents a big void: something conducted by a few politicians for a few politicians, and if anything is to get done, it should come through this group." He continued to say that to solve dormitory residents' problems is "a non-trivial problem," and that "living group government is the only conceivable, viable form of

government."

The elections were then held by preferential ballot. The platforms were roughly the same, and that of the new Chairman, Rick Goettke, follows: 1. to resolve the question of how far dormitories can go in enticing the Freshmen during R/O Week, and to improve Dormcon-IFC communication. 2. to follow up on the room and dining rate increases, and help reduce these wherever possible. 3. to make Judcom a stronger intermediate appeal board between the dorms and the Institute. 4. to keep having the annual October Talbot House discussion meetings. 5. to generally strengthen the functions and powers of Dormcon.

Dan King and Tony Loh were elected by acclamation. The election of the Freshman Orientation Chairman was postponed until next meeting, and as one final item of business, it was announced that the Burton parking lot was to be closed next year to make room for the building of fraternities, thus making it necessary for the Institute to find 80 new parking spaces.



A commemoration, apparently, of the Ides of March, the Rape of the Sabine Women was re-enacted Wednesday by a group of perhaps twenty toga-clad males of indeterminate origin, who, following a clarion trumpet call from the balcony, entered Lobdell and carried off one weakly protesting (prearranged) woman apiece. The nighttime crowd, after a few seconds of silence, burst into applause.

Photo by Sheldon Lowenthal

## Classic academic deception results in student expulsion

By Paul Schindler

An undergraduate student has been expelled from MIT for submitting non-original work as his own. While unwilling to reveal the student's name or class, Dean for Student Affairs J. Daniel Nyhart's office was able to release some details of what is termed "a classic case of academic dishonesty."

This was the first reported case of such dishonesty in recent years. It comes to light at a time when MIT lawyers, in co-operation with Harvard and several other area schools are drafting anti-termpaper mill legislation. (The lawyers, in addition to the drafting of proposed legislation, are also considering possible legal recourse under present laws.)

It cannot be determined whether or not the paper involved came from a termpaper service, as the student is not liable for comment. Dean Nyhart noted that, "If it was a service, it was a poor one, as the paper was copied almost directly from a source book. I find it hard to believe that a service could be so bad. But, on the other hand, I don't want to give that an MIT student would write such a poor paper." The Dean's Office described the procedure involved in such a service, noting that work done by students, either research or the presentation of a finished paper, "is a violation of academic honesty if submitted as a student's own original work." If

such work is submitted, and detected, a complaint comes from a faculty member.

Such a complaint was received last July concerning this case of plagiarism. The student was informed of the charges in September, and offered legal counsel (paid for by MIT). In addition, he had two to three weeks in which to make a response to the charges; he did not choose to respond. During the hearing before the Discipline Committee, he did not dispute the facts as presented by the faculty member.

After any Discipline Committee decision to expel a student, there is presidential review of the decision before it becomes final. (Dr. Wiesner reviewed this decision and found it proper.) After being expelled by the Discipline Committee, a student may apply for readmission as soon as the next term, unless otherwise specified. To do so involves a further appearance before the committee before readmittance (there is no way to determine whether or not the student involved in the recent case has applied for, or received, readmission).

The Dean's Office defended the lack of information revealed on the case by noting that, "to say any more such as the class of the student or the course involved, would be an unreasonable risk of exposure. Discipline Committee meetings are held in private to protect the student, if he desires such protection."

Such was not the case in such classic Discipline Committee decisions as that involving former UAP Mike Albert, whose expulsion was considered by many to be a political act (one of the charges levied against him was "disrespect" for the committee trying him. The other was "disruption" of Institute functions).

Public notice of decisions, as in Albert's case, is a determination made by the student. The

NEW sent a team to MIT last week to study its compliance with federal regulations on discrimination. Their report will be submitted to Dr. Wiesner in a letter to be delivered today. Main points of the report will be released Tuesday in *The Tech*.



## NOTES

\* MIT Chinese Students' Club will host two recent travelers to China. Paul Lee and Spring Wong will come to give a short talk and answer your questions about present conditions on the mainland. Please come and participate on Saturday, March 18 in room 4-150 at 8 pm.

\* A general meeting of the Pre-Medical Society will be held Monday evening, March 20 at 7:30 pm in the Sala de Puerto Rico of the Student Center. The topic for the meeting is: *Roles and Viewpoints in the Field of Medicine*; "The Psychiatrist and Woman Physician," Carola E. Eisenberg, M.D., and "The Surgeon," Donald E. Butterfield, M.D. Pre-med students are urged to attend and the entire community is welcome. For information call S. Cochi at 261-3689.

\* An organizational meeting for all people interested in playing JV lacrosse will be held on Monday, March 20, at 5:30 pm in the lobby of Dupont Athletic Center. For information, call S. Cochi at 261-3689.

\* The Electrical Engineering Student-Faculty Committee will hold a General Meeting in room 8-205 on Tuesday, March 21, at 5 pm. The meeting is open to all students and faculty in Electrical Engineering, and new members are especially welcome.

\* March 24 is the last day for seniors to designate a course as pass/fail grading.

\* The CAP "Guide for Undergraduates and Faculty Counselors" is available in the Information Office, Registrar's Office and the CAP office, 26-143. It contains information useful to students concerning academic standing, withdrawal, disqualification, etc.

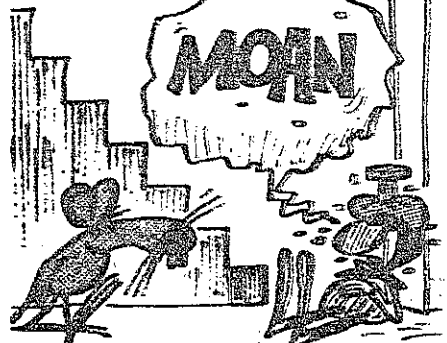
\* Nominations for the Goodwin Medalist are now being accepted. Please submit the names of any candidates to Dean Irwin W. Sizer, room 3-134, before Monday, April 3, 1972. Nominations may be made by any student or faculty member and submitted through the Head of the nominee's department, the Undergraduate Association or the Graduate Student Council. The Goodwin Medal is awarded in recognition of conspicuously effective teaching by a graduate student who is either a Teaching Assistant or an Instructor. Further information may be obtained by calling x4869.

\* Selection of the first recipient of the James R. Killian, Jr. Award, recognizing extraordinary professional accomplishments by full-time faculty members and providing a means for communication of these accomplishments to the MIT community is now underway. All persons wishing to nominate persons fulfilling the requirements should submit nominations to Professor Morris Halle, room 20C-128, before April 7, 1972.

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# Black hole theory evolved

By Storm Kauffman

In the recent Astrophysics seminar, Professor Remo Ruffini of Princeton University revealed that his group has succeeded in pinning down some of the properties and characteristics of collapsed objects in the Galaxy.

The first hint that such superdense objects might exist nearby came in 1967 with the discovery of the first pulsar. The theory of general relativity allows for the existence of neutron stars and black holes, and both were postulated as far back as 1939 by Robert Oppenheimer.

Ruffini spent little time upon the history of the theory, but rather delved immediately into the results of the past two years' study. The group began armed with the gravitational red shift and light deflection predictions of relativity.

The magnitude of this effect given by the formula:  $(\text{Mass}) / (\text{speed of light squared } c^2) \times (\text{radius } R)$ . It can be seen from this that for the effect to be significant the body being studied must have a great mass and small radius. This test for the theory of relativity has been made very carefully for the sun, which produces a deviation of only one part in one million.

What Ruffini's group was searching for was bodies for which this ratio would be greater than 1/100 and preferably approach one. Both neutron stars and black holes appear to fall within these bounds, and, interestingly, the value is apparently unity for the universe. Though the larger the ratio, the easier the determination, the sheer immensity and the uniqueness of the universe makes its use impractical.

The discovery of pulsars added a great deal of excitement. Pulsars are objects that are emitting very intense bursts of energy at very rapid and regular intervals. The short period is believed to result from the rotation of a neutron star that must be very small to spin so quickly. What is truly amazing is the energy output of a pulsar. The one in the Crab Nebula, thought to be the remnant of a supernova explosion in 1054, has a period of 33 milliseconds, a probable radius of less than 20 kilometers, is at least as massive as the sun, yet is giving off more than 100,000 times the energy output of the sun.

Ruffini has developed a structural model of a hypothetical star with a ten kilometer radius, 2/3 of a solar mass, and a density of five quadrillion grams per cubic centimeter. There is a surface layer of plasma, a core made of normal matter, a shell composed of a crystal lattice and electrons; then a mixture of heavy nuclei, electrons, neutrons, and finally a one meter diameter inner core of elementary particles. This is a very interesting model as it does utilize the previous idea of a

largely neutronium (pure, tightly packed neutrons and nothing else) sphere, and the total structure includes nearly every area of physics.

Theoretically, there is no reason why the parent star or cloud of gas cannot contract indefinitely unless another physics takes over. It is believed that relativity begins to dominate and the object will asymptotically approach a radius of  $2GM/c^2$  with increasing time. To a distant observer this "Schwarzschild radius" requires an infinite time to be reached, but the collapse is effectively complete within the first second.

Using their calculations and models as a basis, Ruffini's group concluded that the mass of a neutron star must be greater than .05 and less than three times the mass of the sun. Also, the radius must be between ten and 250 kilometers, assuming no rotation. Ruffini called the setting of these boundaries the single most important result of his work.

Ruffini then asked rhetorically what happens to the body that cannot throw off enough mass to become a neutron star. His answer was that it becomes a "black hole," really quite similar to a neutron star, and then he investigated the properties of the holes.

The mass is greater than three times that of the sun, and the radius is given by the formula for the Schwarzschild radius (for a ten solar mass hole this would be about 30 kilometers).

The gravitational field of a black hole is even more intense than that of a neutron star. A photon of light becomes "tired" as it tries to fight its way out, and, as it loses energy, it becomes redder in appearance, developing the so-called red shift. A photon that travels radially outward from the surface would eventually lose all its energy and appear black, hence the descriptive.

The hole comes from the deflection effect of gravitation on light. At a certain distance all the light radiated within a cone opening toward the hole can never escape and falls into the hole. As the distance is reduced, the cone broadens until, at the

Schwarzschild radius, no light at all can ever escape.

The critical density for this to occur is proportional to ten quadrillion times the square of the ratio of solar mass to object mass. The measured density of the universe corresponds with that of a black hole.

So how can we find a likely sized black hole? Ruffini pointed out that an infalling particle approaches the speed of light and a great deal of gravitational and electromagnetic radiation should be emitted as the hole functions as a particle accelerator. The best chance of finding this collapsed object is one where it is part of a close binary star system. The hole should continuously siphon off gases from its companion, emitting x-rays in large quantity, and whenever a sizeable lump of matter is pulled in a characteristically triple-peaked energy burst should be discernable.

Ruffini noted that a rotating hole would have a differentiated structure. The hole portion would be the core with a radius as predicted by the Schwarzschild ratio; and surrounding it would be a black shell that Ruffini's group has dubbed the "ergosphere." If a charged particle decays while passing through the ergosphere, one of the resultants falls into the hole and has, in effect, a negative energy. The other decay particle escapes with more energy than its parent.

Ruffini last analyzed the reaction by which the escaping particle is energized. He believes that the rotation of the hole is infinitesimally slowed and similar observations of pulsar neutron stars appears to supply confirming evidence. In fact, any hole that is charged and/or rotating probably decays into the inert Schwarzschild model. The general hole has not only rest mass and linear velocity but also angular and electric energy. As this hole decays, it can emit up to 29% of its energy while the usual star converts only 2-3% of its reserves. Ruffini's present work is the study of the mechanisms by which the energy is given off; there are many possibilities of which mass infall is only the most likely.





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# The Tech

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Second-class postage paid at Boston, Massachusetts. The Tech is published twice a week during the college year, except during college vacations, and once during the first week in August, by The Tech, Room W20-483, MIT Student Center, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. Telephone: (617) 864-6900 ext. 2731 or 1541.

## VOTE

By Bruce Schwartz

In contrast to accounts in *B.A.D.* and *The Phoenix* which have given the impression that for a student, registering to vote in Cambridge is a process rather like a medieval torture, I found registration almost ridiculously easy. Not only did the Election Commission register me in less than five minutes, they didn't even ask me for positive identification.

In a way, it was disappointing. Taking to heart all the warnings, and armed with four different proofs of residence (this at the advice of the Cambridge Committee on Voter Registration), I arrived at the Election Commission's office last Tuesday at 4:15 pm with my hair neatly combed and dressed in my Straight Arrow Disguise Suit with tie. To my surprise, the registration clerk at the front desk was not a battleaxe reminiscent of my fourth grade teacher but a rather bored looking bearded young man of about 25 wearing a suit, and like myself, not looking at home in it.

Two cancelled rent checks satisfied him (and the sixty-ish matron with whom he consulted) as to my residence. I gave my occupation as "student." I had expected all sorts of questions about my means of support, where I spent my summer vacations, my plans after graduation, etc. But the only important question he asked was the proper one, namely, had I any plans to leave Cambridge? And following my "No" it was only a matter of filling out forms writing my signature and taking an oath that my answers had been true, to convert me into a registered voter.

(MIT students living in Cambridge may register at the Election Commission, 362 Green Street, Central Square, from 8:30 to 4:30, or at Roberts School, Harvard and Windsor Streets, from 5 to 9 Monday through Thursday evenings. Students across the river may register at room 461, Boston City Hall, Government Center, from 9 to 5, at the Copley Square Library from 5 to 9, or at the Back Bay Little City Hall from 9 to 5. If you need residency proof, we suggest securing a letter from the Dean for Student Affairs attesting that you are a student at MIT and your present domicile. -Editor)

# SDS: a bankrupt revolution?

By Alex Makowski

Friday afternoon's three-way joust between the administration, SDS, and visiting Cornell professor Urie Bronfenbrenner was certainly one of the more noteworthy events, in terms of numbers of people, to take place on campus this year. It offers a valuable opportunity for comment on both news reporting and the SDS, casting light on some of the difficulties inherent in the former and the inescapable bankruptcy of the latter.

Often an objective news story can prove a very frustrating vehicle for a reporter interested in presenting his observations. A number of his "facts" are often no more than personal perceptions, difficult to confirm or prove. Including them in a news story invites charges of slanted, biased reporting, since the writer has no more to back up his story than his word and the opinions of other observers.

To use Friday's affair as an example, a number of things readers might be interested in were difficult to determine. The very basic point of how many of the crowd favored the SDS and how many sided with Bronfenbrenner is an obvious case in point. But 26-100 is so structured acoustically that 40 or 50 people clapping and cheering can fill the whole hall with noise - close your eyes and it sounds like everybody present must be on his feet applauding. Open them, and it's obviously a good deal less, but how do you determine what fraction? And once you have, how do you contradict an SDS member who claims it was greater?

Since Bronfenbrenner's thesis deals in part with the growth and development of black children, and SDS leaflets had labeled him a racist, it might also be appropriate for a reader to wonder how many blacks showed up.

Again, it is difficult to print the answer in a news story. The lighting on the audience in 26-100 isn't particularly good, and accurately determining the race of someone sitting more than a third of the way back is difficult. A systematic count is about the only solution, but it's very difficult to be consistent over the 550 seats and the dozens of people standing in the back. In the end, no count sufficiently valid enough to be printed could be determined, but in opinion column I would guess that the number was about 40.

"Who won?"

For a final example, consider the obvious question of "who won?" Somebody must have triumphed somehow, but determining the answer objectively is a problem. A partial solution, adopted in Friday's news story, involves quoting a few people engaged in the dispute so readers will at least see how the participants felt. But the function of a newspaper should be to provide a disinterested view, and printing other people's statements is only an easy way out.

In my opinion Bronfenbrenner carried the day. But printing such a statement in a news story forces an accompanying list of supporting statements, many of which may need supporting statements themselves. By the time one has run through the list of one's interpretations of what was important and where one's facts came from, one has departed somewhat from the ideal behind a straight news story.

By one view, it is not a newspaper's business to print on its news pages anything more than straight facts. Objectivity must be served, lest the public lose its confidence that the newspaper is serving truth. On the other hand, defining "fact" for use as a scientific term is difficult enough without having to do the same for journalism use. And even were a useful definition developed, there is still room for bias in the way a writer chooses which facts to present and how he chooses to present them.

The only conclusion is that there is no external standard save experience to measure a newspaper's objectivity, and experience will be something that varies from person to person. If he judges that a paper's news stories have lied in the past, he is likely to consider any news story printed now to be tainted. If he has never had such an experience, or if he agrees

with the paper's political stance, he will no doubt judge stories to be objective, even when the reporter's personal feelings are clearly evident.

Editorial columns such as this one, fortunately, are freed from some of the news constraints. People expect that the writer will refrain from printing out-and-out lies, but they respect his position as an interpreter of facts charged with offering an opinion on what is going on. If they are familiar with his work, they may judge his presentation by what they have thought of the pieces he has printed in the past. If not, they will no doubt rely on the logic and clarity of his presentation and the political slant he demonstrates.

Having laid the groundwork by a discussion of the nature of facts in journalism, it's a bit easier to discuss actually both the SDS in general and Friday afternoon's "confrontation" in particular. SDS members would no doubt dismiss this as a biased account, and the writer's feelings are obviously presented, but that doesn't detract from the fact that the opinions presented come from a writer experienced in covering a number of different events at MIT.

Fighting the good fight

For three years now, MITSDS has been a small fringe group fighting the good fight for a worker-student alliance. Seldom numbering more than two dozen people by the most generous estimates, they concentrated their on-campus efforts, at least for a couple of years, on getting better working conditions for various MIT employees, particularly a library worker this past winter (she had lost all working conditions by being fired), Faculty Club employees last school year, and maintenance men in general for a year or two before that. They were never much involved with the large anti-war actions that shook the campus in 1970 - I believe their line was that all the commotion about research detracted from the concentration needed to ally with the working class. Their efforts have been followed in *The Tech*, and on at least two occasions our "biased" reporting (news, not columns) has brought some of their members storming to our office with vague threats about what will happen after the revolution.

Their efforts have been, to put it gently, unavailing. Occasionally their immediate attempts to protest the handling of a particular worker won some concessions, but they have had no real success at all in interesting either the students or the workers in an alliance. Three years of campaigning, reams of leaflets, untold numbers of epithets hurled at various administrators and their stooges - all have been in vain. The legions have not rallied to the standard, and SDS is currently no more successful in attracting an audience, let alone supporters, for their cause than they were two years ago. Without the front page coverage we have supplied them they might have attracted even less.

Less, that is, until last Friday when Bronfenbrenner came to campus on the invitation of the Psychology Department. The size of the crowd was definitely surprising. After all, SDS had leafletted heavily before, but never had they come close to drawing something like the 600 people who showed up Friday afternoon. The SDS ranks had already been swelled by supporters from SDS and UAG (University Action Group follows roughly the same political line as SDS, but its membership comprises mostly faculty and staff) chapters from nearby Tufts and Northeastern, but the total organized contingent on hand couldn't have amounted to more than 60 or 70. Why did so many other people show up. Ask your friends who went (provided that your friendships cross political lines), and you'll have as good an answer as any newspaper account could provide.

The Psychology Department has been sponsoring a series of seminars, and Bronfenbrenner had been invited to discuss his somewhat radical (by Nixon standards, anyway) proposals for day care. Bronfenbrenner no doubt surprised a lot of observers - for a professional he takes a distinctly aprofessional view about how day care should be handled.

We've already got too many professionals involved, he told the 26-100 audience, and all we've managed to do over the past few decades is isolate growing kids from their natural environment, their parents and neighbors. His proposals could only be realized with a drastic reordering of society, reforms that would permit men and women to work part-time, allowing them the time they want to raise their children.

Are blacks inferior?

He spoke of the position of the blacks in our society, bringing to center stage the issue upon which SDS had been harping all week. About the only straightforward answer he gave to a question all afternoon came after repeated yells of, "Do you think blacks are inferior?" Obviously nettled, he finally said, "I think white people have made black people inferior." And I suppose that the SDS will use that as evidence that Bronfenbrenner is indeed a racist.

But is he? Is it wrong to say that by decades of oppression the whites have stunted the development of black children? Is it racist to propose removing those children from the hands of college-trained specialists and returning them to the care of their neighborhoods? Is it so difficult to believe that Bronfenbrenner is genuinely appalled by the upbringing black kids are getting and is casting about for solutions? "One does not solve a problem by closing one's eyes to it," he emphasized to mild applause from the audience.

SDS would have us believe that Bronfenbrenner, like a number of other noted social scientists, is responsible for or inseparable from "the racist murders at Jackson State, the bill passed in Indiana to sterilize welfare mothers, the Family Assistance Program which is to force people on welfare to work for wages below the minimum wage, and the practice of lobotomizing [sic]... women, blacks, especially black women." I must confess to an inability to appreciate all the subtleties of SDS logic but it's hard to miss the technique of associating a man with someone else's criminal activities and then attacking him for them. Bronfenbrenner had nothing to say in either his article or his speech about sterilization or lobotomy, but it does, I suppose, make good leaflet copy.

Hearing an SDS argument about Bronfenbrenner's ideas themselves is enough to make you understand why those scholars prefer guilt by association. To quote from a leaflet:

"Discipline, [the SDS is quoting Bronfenbrenner] is exercised principally by the mother, is focused on overt acts rather than motives or goals, and is mainly inhibitory in character; that is, the child is told *not* to do this or that, to keep quiet, not ask questions, stay out of trouble. The effect of such negative reinforcement is to discourage initiative, curiosity, and exploration, as well as co-operative interaction with a guiding adult."

"This statement implies that Black mothers don't know or care how to raise their children and have no moral sense or goals which they wish to instill in them."

Unmentioned, by the SDS anyway, since Bronfenbrenner dealt with it, is the possibility that our society leaves the black women no time to raise her children as she sees fit. The SDS similarly miscast Bronfenbrenner's position on the effects of bringing blacks and whites together in an integrated classroom. But should we be surprised? When SDS has already decided on the answers, does it really make much difference what the questions are?

So what can one conclude? A motley collection of thugs that have no right to consider themselves members of an academic community disrupted at an interesting talk by an interesting man. Friday afternoon, 600 people witnessed the one-sided onslaught, and one wonders what they could possibly have done to prevent the annoyance caused by a mere few dozen people. The story told here was worth relating only to put the event in context, and to emphasize to those who may be wondering the intellectual, moral, and numerical bankruptcy of the SDS position.



# von Geusau: Reflections on the China trip

By Frans A.M. Alting von Geusau

In his most recent book *Nations in Darkness: China, Russia, America* (Random House, 1971), John G. Stoissinger begins his first chapter with the following allegory from Plato's *Republic*:

"Inside a cave, a group of men are chained in such a way that they can only look at the wall before them and are unable to turn their heads. Behind them a fire blazes and, between them and that fire, other men walk up and down, some talking and some silent. The chained men can only see the shadows of their fellow-men. To them, the shadows are in fact the men, and the voices come from the passing shadows. To these chained men, in Plato's words, 'The truth would be nothing but the shadows.'"

Until the Nixon administration began to move toward more contact and communication with the People's Republic of China, Plato's allegory was a most pertinent description of this country's policy toward China, and China's attitude toward the US.

More than twenty years without

diplomatic relations, without any contact in the framework of the United Nations, with virtually no contact between the two peoples or trade between the two countries, the "truth" about China in this country was little more than its shadow. The shadow of the most populous country in the world, turned communist under Mao, carrying the supposedly expansionist designs of the "communist bloc" to Southeast Asia, Korea, and the Pacific. And when the shadows of the men in Peking and in Moscow no longer merged, China alone was perceived to continue such expansionist policy. It was this kind of truth that made several US governments decide to interfere in the Chinese civil war by protecting Chiang Kai-shek and defending Taiwan. It also made them decide to enter and finally fight the Indo-Chinese war in which the "truth" of communist expansion obscured the reality of a struggle against French and Western colonial domination.

Has Nixon's overture toward China, culminating in his dramatic visit to the country, been the result of a deliberate political decision to break the chains and face the real men and the real China?

The steps taken before the visit gave little evidence of such a policy change. After having committed himself to a "low profile" and small steps toward alleviating the restrictions on traveling to and trading with China since 1969, Nixon's surprise announcement of Henry Kissinger's secret mission to Peking and his own forthcoming visit appeared to be motivated primarily by the domestic political situation in the United States. The announcement, though, brought a welcome end to the disarray caused by the publication of the Pentagon Papers on Vietnam, whereas the timing of the presidential visit itself was no doubt also intended to enhance Nixon's chances to be re-elected for a second term. The absence of any previous consultation with Taiwan and Japan, followed by the doomed attempt to force a two-China solution for Chinese representation in the United Nations, is another indication of the fact that domestic politics rather than a new China policy were predominant in the shift from "low profile" to high drama.

It is also likely that at least Nixon's national security advisor promoted more

contact with China as a means to seek a new global balance of power between the United States, the Soviet Union and China. This latter hypothesis could at least partly explain the US attitude in the Indo-Pakistan war and with respect to Bangla-Desh.

All these possible explanations hardly point to a new China policy aimed at solving the problems of Taiwan, Vietnam or Asian security in general. The US Administration still is very much chained to commitments made ever since the Second World War. The Nixon visit, nonetheless, may have contributed to a new process of communication, enabling both countries eventually to turn away from the shadows to face each other. Such a process hardly justifies the opinion that it was a journey of peace and a week that changed the world, but it may help to move the confrontation from the battleground to the conference-room. (Professor von Geusau is a visiting professor in the Department of Political Science at MIT. He is Director of the Netherlands Institute of International Affairs, and is currently teaching a course in International Relations. -Editor)

## Letters to The Tech

To the editor:

Last night (Tuesday, March 14), I attended an Intra-Mural Council meeting in order to present my views on the new softball rules.

Manager Mike Cucchissi ('75) made these rules in order to "improve the game." In my opinion, he not only did the opposite, but destroyed the game as softball. His opinion that the game needed improving was based on conversations with disgruntled players from last year. It is my guess that he either did not talk to players who were satisfied with last year's rules, or that he conveniently forgot any non-dissenting opinions, as he did not mention any.

Manager Cucchissi has instituted a time limit on all games, in order to prevent extra innings or long games from disrupting his schedule, and to shorten the time an umpire must work, and thereby, he says, improve the quality of the umpiring. When asked how many extra innings were played last year, and how much the schedules were disrupted, he could not answer. And almost all of the umpires at the umpires' clinic agreed that all games should be played to conclusion.

The worst change, to my mind, is the institution, in the B, C, and D leagues of the "three-swing rule." In accordance with this rule, a batter who fouls the third strike is out. This means that in a two strike situation, anything near the strike zone must be hit fair with 100% accuracy if the batter doesn't wish to strike out. Manager Cucchissi reasons that since every good slow-pitch league he has seen has this rule, then the IM softball leagues here, which are fast-pitch (albeit slow fast-pitch) should also have this rule. (That's really sensible, isn't it?) Anyway, he fails to take into account that if any non-A team has an A quality pitcher, they would be almost unbeatable, merely because of one man. (His main goal, he says, is to get as many players into a game as possible, and to have them all enjoy it. I hardly think that anyone would enjoy striking out because he fouled a pitch.) My reasoning? This rule doesn't apply to A-league, right? It seems to me that Manager Cucchissi realizes the disadvantage a batter would be under if he had to face a good pitcher under such a constraint. So I just postulate a good pitcher in the B-league - something that Cucchissi apparently can't do.

Also in the B league, stealing has been eliminated. No reason has been given for this, although there are probably several advantages to doing this. However, the strategy in stealing is an almost integral part of the game.

One other major point - the B league champs can no longer play in the playoffs for the IM trophy. What of the group that has two good teams - but one is in the B league because they're not quite as good. They may be better than all the other A league teams - but they can never prove it. Why have playoffs at all, if this is to

save money - wasn't the best team decided in the regular season?

It's probably too late to raise any effective objections and probably was always too late, if Manager Cucchissi's attitude at the IM Council meeting was indicative of his everyday actions. Still, it's too bad - I was really looking forward to playing *softball* this year.

Thanks for the space.

Dan Swanson

To the editor:

I am writing this letter to clarify certain aspects of your recent article on Dr. Urie Bronfenbrenner's MIT lecture. I found the article somewhat misleading and vague, and one of your captions was incorrect.

While the story's author, Alex Makowski, devoted almost one-fifth of the article to what Dr. Bronfenbrenner was saying, he did not give a clear exposition of Professor Bronfenbrenner's lecture. Dr. Bronfenbrenner said that young people and old people should have more contact with each other, especially parents and their children. He strongly asserted that US parents were not paying enough attention to their children, and he even cited statistics related to the decline of extended families in the state of Massachusetts. The story did not clearly emphasize this very important point of parental care and possibly of grand-parental care.

The story also did not say that Dr. Bronfenbrenner admitted that he had changed some of his views since he wrote the 1967 magazine article. While he said the facts remained the same, he pointed out that he now interpreted some of the facts differently. He also said that he was writing another article on the same subject matter to clarify his old article.

The caption to the photograph of Dr. Bronfenbrenner was very misleading, as it said, "... Bronfenbrenner ... faces a questioner ..." While the caption is true, Dr. Bronfenbrenner was about to ask the crowd around him, including the "questioner," where his coat was. He was trying to leave the lecture room as quickly as possible, but with the crowd around the podium, he couldn't find his coat.

Kyaw Tha Paw U  
News Producer/Editor/Reporter  
WTBS-FM

To the editor:

In regards to Sandy Yulke's article in Tuesday's *The Tech*, we would like to point out that people who are not paying fees at the Student Art Association are in fact *not* welcome to come in and "try their hand at throwing pots." The SAA is operating under a tight budget, and facilities are already crowded to capacity. Since the SAA is run mainly on funds which come from students' SAA fees, we feel it is unfair to give others who are not paying fees free access to the studios and materials.

Terrill Chang  
for the SAA

## A student bloc in '72?

By Norman Sandler

With the approach of the 1972 presidential election, millions of students (approximately 300,000 in the Boston area) will exercise the right to vote for the first time. This has the potential of being the most exciting election we've seen, with two liberals in the running for the Democratic nomination and Nixon up for re-election for the Republicans, and students will have the opportunity to determine the outcome of the election to a greater extent than most realize.

Granted, we have all been chided to vote this year because it's "our duty as newly-appointed citizens." However, student influence goes far beyond November, as there also exists the opportunity of shaping the course of the campaigns, through the primaries, the conventions, and on to the election.

With the unpredictable voters of New Hampshire again surprising the nation in that primary this year, there was a hint of what effect students may have upon this year's race for the White House.

Students played an instrumental role in New Hampshire, canvassing and manning campaign headquarters. Taking most advantage of student support (and reaping the resulting benefits) was South Dakota Senator George McGovern, who until the primary did not pose an actual threat to front-running Maine Senator Edmund Muskie.

McGovern's massive support by student canvassers and campaigners finally culminated in his showing in the primary results, collecting a final total of 37% of the Democratic vote, as opposed to Muskie's rather worrisome 47%.

One could theorize that the wide use of students in the campaigns was not the determining factor in McGovern's showing, arguing that the South Dakotan did have the most organized effort in New Hampshire, leading to his eventual moral victory. However, the student factor can not be discounted completely, and later in the primaries will most likely come to play a very important role in the outcome of those races.

MIT students appear to be only casually affected by the activity in the political arena this year, reflecting much of the proverbial apathy afflicting college campuses. But regardless of what others may say, it is hard to believe that a majority of the students on campus cannot visualize their role in the American political process.

In years gone past, MIT has been extremely active on the national political scene, through the days of the moratorium, the strike, and other related actions. Now comes the 1972 election ... the Democrats again attempting to reorganize the party to put forth the most appealing candidate they have, and the Republicans using the soft-sell to re-elect a President who in the past year has done a bit of quiet campaigning himself, periodically announcing his latest secret negotiations to the public.

In the meantime, what are MIT students doing? Of course, there is a certain percentage who have already been

active in the campaign and were in New Hampshire canvassing over the past few weeks for their respective candidates, but by and large, these comprise a small and virtually negligible percentage, with the majority of students doing very little or nothing. Student political groups (e.g. Students for Muskie, Students for McGovern, et al.) are reporting a relatively small membership, and political activity and discussion throughout the MIT community has, for the most part, centered not on the primary, but on other issues such as confronting Urie Bronfenbrenner.

Not to say that this type of activity is not needed, as anything would most undoubtedly be better than no discussion at all, but with all the controversy surrounding the '72 election and the issues involved (e.g. busing, the ITT-Kleindienst affair, etc.) it is surprising that students are not catching on to the excitement of the campaign in larger numbers and taking more of a part in the primaries and the election.

To refute those who may explain that the reason for the apparent apathy is that not everyone can get to New Hampshire of Florida during the weekend, I call attention to April 25: the date of the Massachusetts primary.

The Mass primary will be significant in the '72 election due to the comparatively early date of the event, as well as the fact that due to the structure and theories concerning the politics of the Commonwealth, the results of the election are not to be predicted. In a state which is almost totally Democratic, electing only Republicans to state and local offices, anything could happen next month, and the high concentration of students and potential student vote could swing the vote behind any of the candidates.

The point here is that although the primary and the campaign fall approximately at mid-term, when work loads increase and the weather is no longer conducive to work, students should realize their importance in the primary and express at least a minimum of involvement, even if it entails simply registering to vote for the primary. The deadline for registration is March 25.

On a larger scale, students could swing their efforts to the actual political scene, in anything from taking a non-partisan role in providing voter registration (through a national group known as The Student Vote) to actually "getting down to brass tacks" and walking the streets of Boston and Cambridge doing canvassing and campaigning for prospective Presidential candidates.

The purpose of this column has not been to provide information on what students, and particularly those at MIT, have not been doing, but rather to call to students to realize what they *can* do in this election year to influence the outcome of a Presidential race involving a great many issues which will determine the course of history for the United States over the next four years.



Continuous News Service

# The Tech

Since 1881

Vol. XCII, No. 12 March 17, 1972

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Second-class postage paid at Boston, Massachusetts. The Tech is published twice a week during the college year, except during college vacations, and once during the first week in August, by The Tech, Room W20-483, MIT Student Center, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. Telephone: (617) 864-6900 ext. 2731 or 1541.

## VOTE

By Bruce Schwartz

In contrast to accounts in *B.A.D.* and *The Phoenix* which have given the impression that for a student, registering to vote in Cambridge is a process rather like a medieval torture, I found registration almost ridiculously easy. Not only did the Election Commission register me in less than five minutes, they didn't even ask me for positive identification.

In a way, it was disappointing. Taking to heart all the warnings, and armed with four different proofs of residence (this at the advice of the Cambridge Committee on Voter Registration), I arrived at the Election Commission's office last Tuesday at 4:15 pm with my hair neatly combed and dressed in my Straight Arrow Disguise Suit with tie. To my surprise, the registration clerk at the front desk was not a battleaxe reminiscent of my fourth grade teacher but a rather bored looking bearded young man of about 25 wearing a suit, and like myself, not looking at home in it.

Two cancelled rent checks satisfied him (and the sixty-ish matron with whom he consulted) as to my residence. I gave my occupation as "student." I had expected all sorts of questions about my means of support, where I spent my summer vacations, my plans after graduation, etc. But the only important question he asked was the proper one, namely, had I any plans to leave Cambridge? And following my "No" it was only a matter of filling out forms writing my signature and taking an oath that my answers had been true, to convert me into a registered voter.

(MIT students living in Cambridge may register at the Election Commission, 362 Green Street, Central Square, from 8:30 to 4:30, or at Roberts School, Harvard and Windsor Streets, from 5 to 9 Monday through Thursday evenings. Students across the river may register at room 461, Boston City Hall, Government Center, from 9 to 5, at the Copley Square Library from 5 to 9, or at the Back Bay Little City Hall from 9 to 5. If you need residency proof, we suggest securing a letter from the Dean for Student Affairs attesting that you are a student at MIT and your present domicile. - Editor)

# SDS: a bankrupt revolution?

By Alex Makowski

Friday afternoon's three-way joust between the administration, SDS, and visiting Cornell professor Urie Bronfenbrenner was certainly one of the more noteworthy events, in terms of numbers of people, to take place on campus this year. It offers a valuable opportunity for comment on both news reporting and the SDS, casting light on some of the difficulties inherent in the former and the inescapable bankruptcy of the latter.

Often an objective news story can prove a very frustrating vehicle for a reporter interested in presenting his observations. A number of his "facts" are often no more than personal perceptions, difficult to confirm or prove. Including them in a news story invites charges of slanted, biased reporting, since the writer has no more to back up his story than his word and the opinions of other observers.

To use Friday's affair as an example, a number of things readers might be interested in were difficult to determine. The very basic point of how many of the crowd favored the SDS and how many sided with Bronfenbrenner is an obvious case in point. But 26-100 is so structured acoustically that 40 or 50 people clapping and cheering can fill the whole hall with noise - close your eyes and it sounds like everybody present must be on his feet applauding. Open them, and it's obviously a good deal less, but how do you determine what fraction? And once you have, how do you contradict an SDS member who claims it was greater?

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Again, it is difficult to print the answer in a news story. The lighting on the audience in 26-100 isn't particularly good, and accurately determining the race of someone sitting more than a third of the way back is difficult. A systematic count is about the only solution, but it's very difficult to be consistent over the 550 seats and the dozens of people standing in the back. In the end, no count sufficiently valid enough to be printed could be determined, but in opinion column I would guess that the number was about 40.

"Who won?"

For a final example, consider the obvious question of "who won?" Somebody must have triumphed somehow, but determining the answer objectively is a problem. A partial solution, adopted in Friday's news story, involves quoting a few people engaged in the dispute so readers will at least see how the participants felt. But the function of a newspaper should be to provide a disinterested view, and printing other people's statements is only an easy way out.

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By one view, it is not a newspaper's business to print on its news pages anything more than straight facts. Objectivity must be served, lest the public lose its confidence that the newspaper is serving truth. On the other hand, defining "fact" for use as a scientific term is difficult enough without having to do the same for journalism use. And even were a useful definition developed, there is still room for bias in the way a writer chooses which facts to present and how he chooses to present them.

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with the paper's political stance, he will no doubt judge stories to be objective, even when the reporter's personal feelings are clearly evident.

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Fighting the good fight

For three years now, MITSDS has been a small fringe group fighting the good fight for a worker-student alliance. Seldom numbering more than two dozen people by the most generous estimates, they concentrated their on-campus efforts, at least for a couple of years, on getting better working conditions for various MIT employees, particularly a library worker this past winter (she had lost all working conditions by being fired), Faculty Club employees last school year, and maintenance men in general for a year or two before that. They were never much involved with the large anti-war actions that shook the campus in 1970 - I believe their line was that all the commotion about research detracted from the concentration needed to ally with the working class. Their efforts have been followed in *The Tech*, and on at least two occasions our "biased" reporting (news, not columns) has brought some of their members storming to our office with vague threats about what will happen after the revolution.

Their efforts have been, to put it gently, unavailing. Occasionally their immediate attempts to protest the handling of a particular worker won some concessions, but they have had no real success at all in interesting either the students or the workers in an alliance. Three years of campaigning, reams of leaflets, untold numbers of epithets hurled at various administrators and their stooges - all have been in vain. The legions have not rallied to the standard, and SDS is currently no more successful in attracting an audience, let alone supporters, for their cause than they were two years ago. Without the front page coverage we have supplied them they might have attracted even less.

Less, that is, until last Friday when Bronfenbrenner came to campus on the invitation of the Psychology Department. The size of the crowd was definitely surprising. After all, SDS had leafletted heavily before, but never had they come close to drawing something like the 600 people who showed up Friday afternoon. The SDS ranks had already been swelled by supporters from SDS and UAG (University Action Group follows roughly the same political line as SDS, but its membership comprises mostly faculty and staff) chapters from nearby Tufts and Northeastern, but the total organized contingent on hand couldn't have amounted to more than 60 or 70. Why did so many other people show up. Ask your friends who went (provided that your friendships cross political lines), and you'll have as good an answer as any newspaper account could provide.

The Psychology Department has been sponsoring a series of seminars, and Bronfenbrenner had been invited to discuss his somewhat radical (by Nixon standards, anyway) proposals for day care. Bronfenbrenner no doubt surprised a lot of observers - for a professional he takes a distinctly aprofessional view about how day care should be handled.

We've already got too many professionals involved, he told the 26-100 audience, and all we've managed to do over the past few decades is isolate growing kids from their natural environment, their parents and neighbors. His proposals could only be realized with a drastic reordering of society, reforms that would permit men and women to work part-time, allowing them the time they want to raise their children.

Are blacks inferior?

He spoke of the position of the blacks in our society, bringing to center stage the issue upon which SDS had been harping all week. About the only straightforward answer he gave to a question all afternoon came after repeated yells of, "Do you think blacks are inferior?" Obviously nettled, he finally said, "I think white people have made black people inferior." And I suppose that the SDS will use that as evidence that Bronfenbrenner is indeed a racist.

But is he? Is it wrong to say that by decades of oppression the whites have stunted the development of black children? Is it racist to propose removing those children from the hands of college-trained specialists and returning them to the care of their neighborhoods? Is it so difficult to believe that Bronfenbrenner is genuinely appalled by the upbringing black kids are getting and is casting about for solutions? "One does not solve a problem by closing one's eyes to it," he emphasized to mild applause from the audience.

SDS would have us believe that Bronfenbrenner, like a number of other noted social scientists, is responsible for or inseparable from "the racist murders at Jackson State, the bill passed in Indiana to sterilize welfare mothers, the Family Assistance Program which is to force people on welfare to work for wages below the minimum wage, and the practice of lobotomizing /sic/ ... women, blacks, especially black women." I must confess to an inability to appreciate all the subtleties of SDS logic, but it's hard to miss the technique of associating a man with someone else's criminal activities and then attacking him for them. Bronfenbrenner had nothing to say in either his article or his speech about sterilization or lobotomy, but it does, I suppose, make good leaflet copy.

Hearing an SDS argument about Bronfenbrenner's ideas themselves is enough to make you understand why those scholars prefer guilt by association. To quote from a leaflet:

"Discipline, [the SDS is quoting Bronfenbrenner] is exercised principally by the mother, is focused on overt acts rather than motives or goals, and is mainly inhibitory in character; that is, the child is told *not* to do this or that, to keep quiet, not ask questions, stay out of trouble. The effect of such negative reinforcement is to discourage initiative, curiosity, and exploration, as well as co-operative interaction with a guiding adult."

"This statement implies that Black mothers don't know or care how to raise their children and have no moral sense or goals which they wish to instill in them."

Unmentioned, by the SDS anyway, since Bronfenbrenner dealt with it, is the possibility that our society leaves the black women no time to raise her children as she sees fit. The SDS similarly miscast Bronfenbrenner's position on the effects of bringing blacks and whites together in an integrated classroom. But should we be surprised? When SDS has already decided on the answers, does it really make much difference what the questions are?

So what can one conclude? A motley collection of thugs that have no right to consider themselves members of an academic community disrupted an interesting talk by an interesting man Friday afternoon, 600 people witnessed the one-sided onslaught, and one wonders what they could possibly have done to prevent the annoyance caused by a mere few dozen people. The story told here was worth relating only to put the event in context, and to emphasize to those who may be wondering the intellectual, moral, and numerical bankruptcy of the SDS position.



# von Geusau: Reflections on the China trip

By Frans A.M. Alting von Geusau

In his most recent book *Nations in Darkness: China, Russia, America* (Random House, 1971), John G. Stoissinger begins his first chapter with the following allegory from Plato's *Republic*:

"Inside a cave, a group of men are chained in such a way that they can only look at the wall before them and are unable to turn their heads. Behind them a fire blazes and, between them and that fire, other men walk up and down, some talking and some silent. The chained men can only see the shadows of their fellow-men. To them, the shadows are in fact the men, and the voices come from the passing shadows. To these chained men, in Plato's words, 'The truth would be nothing but the shadows.'"

Until the Nixon administration began to move toward more contact and communication with the People's Republic of China, Plato's allegory was a most pertinent description of this country's policy toward China, and China's attitude toward the US.

More than twenty years without

diplomatic relations, without any contact in the framework of the United Nations, with virtually no contact between the two peoples or trade between the two countries, the "truth" about China in this country was little more than its shadow. The shadow of the most populous country in the world, turned communist under Mao, carrying the supposedly expansionist designs of the "communist bloc" to Southeast Asia, Korea, and the Pacific. And when the shadows of the men in Peking and in Moscow no longer merged, China alone was perceived to continue such expansionist policy. It was this kind of truth that made several US governments decide to interfere in the Chinese civil war by protecting Chiang Kai-shek and defending Taiwan. It also made them decide to enter and finally fight the Indo-Chinese war in which the "truth" of communist expansion obscured the reality of a struggle against French and Western colonial domination.

Has Nixon's overture toward China, culminating in his dramatic visit to the country, been the result of a deliberate political decision to break the chains and face the real men and the real China?

The steps taken before the visit gave little evidence of such a policy change. After having committed himself to a "low profile" and small steps toward alleviating the restrictions on traveling to and trading with China since 1969, Nixon's surprise announcement of Henry Kissinger's secret mission to Peking and his own forthcoming visit appeared to be motivated primarily by the domestic political situation in the United States. The announcement, though, brought a welcome end to the disarray caused by the publication of the Pentagon Papers on Vietnam, whereas the timing of the presidential visit itself was no doubt also intended to enhance Nixon's chances to be re-elected for a second term. The absence of any previous consultation with Taiwan and Japan, followed by the doomed attempt to force a two-China solution for Chinese representation in the United Nations, is another indication of the fact that domestic politics rather than a new China policy were predominant in the shift from "low profile" to high drama.

It is also likely that at least Nixon's national security advisor promoted more

contact with China as a means to seek a new global balance of power between the United States, the Soviet Union and China. This latter hypothesis could at least partly explain the US attitude in the Indo-Pakistan war and with respect to Bangla-Desh.

All these possible explanations hardly point to a new China policy aimed at solving the problems of Taiwan, Vietnam or Asian security in general. The US Administration still is very much chained to commitments made ever since the Second World War. The Nixon visit, nonetheless, may have contributed to a new process of communication, enabling both countries eventually to turn away from the shadows to face each other. Such a process hardly justifies the opinion that it was a journey of peace and a week that changed the world, but it may help to move the confrontation from the battleground to the conference-room. (Professor von Geusau is a visiting professor in the Department of Political Science at MIT. He is Director of the Netherlands Institute of International Affairs, and is currently teaching a course in International Relations. —Editor)

## Letters to The Tech

To the editor:

Last night (Tuesday, March 14), I attended an Intra-Mural Council meeting in order to present my views on the new softball rules.

Manager Mike Cucchissi ('75) made these rules in order to "improve the game." In my opinion, he not only did the opposite, but destroyed the game as softball. His opinion that the game needed improving was based on conversations with disgruntled players from last year. It is my guess that he either did not talk to players who were satisfied with last year's rules, or that he conveniently forgot any non-dissenting opinions, as he did not mention any.

Manager Cucchissi has instituted a time limit on all games, in order to prevent extra innings or long games from disrupting his schedule, and to shorten the time an umpire must work, and thereby, he says, improve the quality of the umping. When asked how many extra innings were played last year, and how much the schedules were disrupted, he could not answer. And almost all of the umpires at the umpires' clinic agreed that all games should be played to conclusion.

The worst change, to my mind, is the institution, in the B, C, and D leagues of the "three-swing rule." In accordance with this rule, a batter who fouls the third strike is out. This means that in a two strike situation, anything near the strike zone must be hit fair with 100% accuracy if the batter doesn't wish to strike out. Manager Cucchissi reasons that since every good slow-pitch league he has seen has this rule, then the IM softball leagues here, which are fast-pitch (albeit slow fast-pitch) should also have this rule. (That's really sensible, isn't it?) Anyway, he fails to take into account that if any non-A team has an A quality pitcher, they would be almost unbeatable, merely because of one man. (His main goal, he says, is to get as many players into a game as possible, and to have them all enjoy it. I hardly think that anyone would enjoy striking out because he fouled a pitch.) My reasoning? This rule doesn't apply to A-league, right? It seems to me that Manager Cucchissi realizes the disadvantage a batter would be under if he had to face a good pitcher under such a constraint. So I just postulate a good pitcher in the B-league — something that Cucchissi apparently can't do.

Also in the B league, stealing has been eliminated. No reason has been given for this, although there are probably several advantages to doing this. However, the strategy in stealing is an almost integral part of the game.

One other major point — the B league champs can no longer play in the playoffs for the IM trophy. What of the group that has two good teams — but one is in the B league because they're not quite as good. They may be better than all the other A league teams — but they can never prove it. Why have playoffs at all, if this is to

save money — wasn't the best team decided in the regular season?

It's probably too late to raise any effective objections and probably was always too late, if Manager Cucchissi's attitude at the IM Council meeting was indicative of his everyday actions. Still, it's too bad — I was really looking forward to playing softball this year.

Thanks for the space.

Dan Swanson

To the editor:

I am writing this letter to clarify certain aspects of your recent article on Dr. Urie Bronfenbrenner's MIT lecture. I found the article somewhat misleading and vague, and one of your captions was incorrect.

While the story's author, Alex Makowski, devoted almost one-fifth of the article to what Dr. Bronfenbrenner was saying, he did not give a clear exposition of Professor Bronfenbrenner's lecture. Dr. Bronfenbrenner said that young people and old people should have more contact with each other, especially parents and their children. He strongly asserted that US parents were not paying enough attention to their children, and he even cited statistics related to the decline of extended families in the state of Massachusetts. The story did not clearly emphasize this very important point of parental care and possibly of grand-parental care.

The story also did not say that Dr. Bronfenbrenner admitted that he had changed some of his views since he wrote the 1967 magazine article. While he said the facts remained the same, he pointed out that he now interpreted some of the facts differently. He also said that he was writing another article on the same subject matter to clarify his old article.

The caption to the photograph of Dr. Bronfenbrenner was very misleading, as it said, "... Bronfenbrenner... faces a questioner..." While the caption is true, Dr. Bronfenbrenner was about to ask the crowd around him, including the "questioner," where his coat was. He was trying to leave the lecture room as quickly as possible, but with the crowd around the podium, he couldn't find his coat.

Kyaw Tha Paw U

News Producer/Editor/Reporter  
WTBS-FM

To the editor:

In regards to Sandy Yulke's article in Tuesday's *The Tech*, we would like to point out that people who are not paying fees at the Student Art Association are in fact not welcome to come in and "try their hand at throwing pots." The SAA is operating under a tight budget, and facilities are already crowded to capacity. Since the SAA is run mainly on funds which come from students' SAA fees, we feel it is unfair to give others who are not paying fees free access to the studios and materials.

Terrill Chang  
for the SAA

## A student bloc in '72?

By Norman Sandler

With the approach of the 1972 presidential election, millions of students (approximately 300,000 in the Boston area) will exercise the right to vote for the first time. This has the potential of being the most exciting election we've seen, with two liberals in the running for the Democratic nomination and Nixon up for re-election for the Republicans, and students will have the opportunity to determine the outcome of the election to a greater extent than most realize.

Granted, we have all been chided to vote this year because it's "our duty as newly-appointed citizens." However, student influence goes far beyond November, as there also exists the opportunity of shaping the course of the campaigns, through the primaries, the conventions, and on to the election.

With the unpredictable voters of New Hampshire again surprising the nation in that primary this year, there was a hint of what effect students may have upon this year's race for the White House.

Students played an instrumental role in New Hampshire, canvassing and manning campaign headquarters. Taking most advantage of student support (and reaping the resulting benefits) was South Dakota Senator George McGovern, who until the primary did not pose an actual threat to front-running Maine Senator Edmund Muskie.

McGovern's massive support by student canvassers and campaigners finally culminated in his showing in the primary results, collecting a final total of 37% of the Democratic vote, as opposed to Muskie's rather worrisome 47%.

One could theorize that the wide use of students in the campaigns was not the determining factor in McGovern's showing, arguing that the South Dakotan did have the most organized effort in New Hampshire, leading to his eventual moral victory. However, the student factor can not be discounted completely, and later in the primaries will most likely come to play a very important role in the outcome of those races.

MIT students appear to be only casually affected by the activity in the political arena this year, reflecting much of the proverbial apathy afflicting college campuses. But regardless of what others may say, it is hard to believe that a majority of the students on campus cannot visualize their role in the American political process.

In years gone past, MIT has been extremely active on the national political scene, through the days of the moratorium, the strike, and other related actions. Now comes the 1972 election... the Democrats again attempting to reorganize the party to put forth the most appealing candidate they have, and the Republicans using the soft-sell to re-elect a President who in the past year has done a bit of quiet campaigning himself, periodically announcing his latest secret negotiations to the public.

In the meantime, what are MIT students doing? Of course, there is a certain percentage who have already been

active in the campaign and were in New Hampshire canvassing over the past few weeks for their respective candidates, but by and large, these comprise a small and virtually negligible percentage, with the majority of students doing very little or nothing. Student political groups (e.g. Students for Muskie, Students for McGovern, et al.) are reporting a relatively small membership, and political activity and discussion throughout the MIT community has, for the most part, centered not on the primary, but on other issues such as confronting Urie Bronfenbrenner.

Not to say that this type of activity is not needed, as anything would most undoubtedly be better than no discussion at all, but with all the controversy surrounding the '72 election and the issues involved (e.g. busing, the ITT-Kleindienst affair, etc.) it is surprising that students are not catching on to the excitement of the campaign in larger numbers and taking more of a part in the primaries and the election.

To refute those who may explain that the reason for the apparent apathy is that not everyone can get to New Hampshire of Florida during the weekend, I call attention to April 25: the date of the Massachusetts primary.

The Mass primary will be significant in the '72 election due to the comparatively early date of the event, as well as the fact that due to the structure and theories concerning the politics of the Commonwealth, the results of the election are not to be predicted. In a state which is almost totally Democratic, electing only Republicans to state and local offices, anything could happen next month, and the high concentration of students and potential student vote could swing the vote behind any of the candidates.

The point here is that although the primary and the campaign fall approximately at mid-term, when work loads increase and the weather is no longer conducive to work, students should realize their importance in the primary and express at least a minimum of involvement, even if it entails simply registering to vote for the primary. The deadline for registration is March 25.

On a larger scale, students could swing their efforts to the actual political scene, in anything from taking a non-partisan role in providing voter registration (through a national group known as The Student Vote) to actually "getting down to brass tacks" and walking the streets of Boston and Cambridge doing canvassing and campaigning for prospective Presidential candidates.

The purpose of this column has not been to provide information on what students, and particularly those at MIT, have not been doing, but rather to call to students to realize what they can do in this election year to influence the outcome of a Presidential race involving a great many issues which will determine the course of history for the United States over the next four years.



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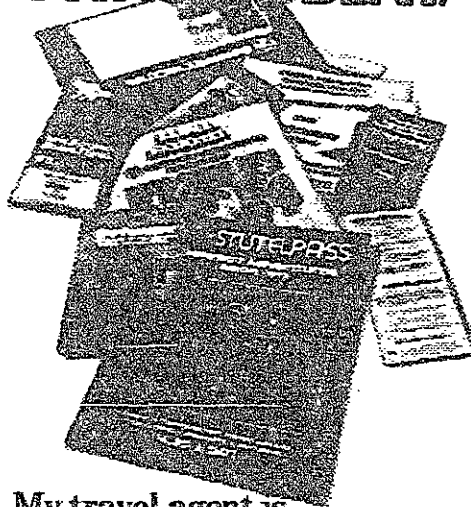
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# Ntlabati opens lecture series

By Seth Stein

The Political Science Department's series on Black Liberation Movements in Southern Africa began with a lecture Tuesday night in the Mezzanine lounge by the Reverend Gladstone Ntlabati, who said that the differences between blacks and whites "cannot be solved by agreement — the only solution is a violent revolution."

Rev. Ntlabati was born in South Africa, where he attended the University of Natal before it was closed to Africans by the so-called University Extension Education Act. As an opponent of apartheid he was imprisoned and tortured by the government. In the United States he has worked with various black organizations — in the process, making an "involuntary study" of the differences between American and South African courts and jails.

The South African situation is unique, he said, in that the white Afrikaners, "given the choice between sharing political power or death, would choose death." They were colonists when they came to Africa 300 years ago, but are now a nation with a distinct language, culture, and traditions. An integral part of this tradition is their staunch

Calvinism, which has helped produce an attitude of no compromise. A South African theologian wrote, "If we disappear from South Africa, we show that we prefer not to die on the road to integration, but by God's hand." Thus the Afrikaners refuse to abandon what they consider their divine mission of civilizing Africa.

This lecture, the first in a series of six, dealt specifically with the question of Southwest Africa, or Namibia, which has become a major issue between South Africa and its opponents. This huge, mineral rich area, formerly a German colony, was taken by the British during the first World War. It was held by South Africa under a League of Nations mandate which required promotion of the "material and moral well-being and social progress of the inhabitants." Ntlabati pointed out that far from doing this, the South Africans forced the Africans into desert reserves, which were generally without water or arable land and completely incapable of supporting their population. Tribes who resisted were bombed into submission, creating a minor international incident.

After World War II, Ntlabati continued, the issue revived,

when African nations led by Ethiopia and Liberia asked the International Court of Justice to rule that the United Nations had inherited the mandate. In 1965 the Court refused to rule on the case, and South Africa, claiming it had been vindicated, annexed Southwest Africa. The small resistance that arose was easily crushed under the infamous Terrorism Act, under which even breaking windows in a school can be punished by death. The Act was made retroactive to 1962.

Later the World Court ruled against South Africa, and the UN formed a committee that claimed jurisdiction over Namibia. This committee has been a farce, as the US, the USSR and England have refused to participate. Ntlabati reported that this committee decided to fly to Southwest Africa but turned back when the South Africans threatened to shoot them down. The Zambian government urged the committee to return in a Zambian plane — the reason given for turning back was that the pilot had been reluctant — but "feeling that they had done enough for the month, the committee returned to New York." No more effective action seems very likely in the near future.



Photo by Dave Green

Rev. Gladstone Ntlabati

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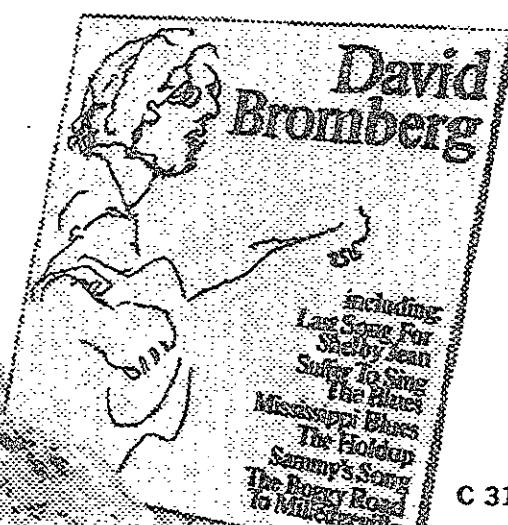
But David has also had his own thing going. For eight years he's been playing clubs and cafes, radio shows, the Philadelphia Folk Festival and he captured the spirit of the Isle of Wight Festival as David Bromberg: singer, songwriter and total performer.

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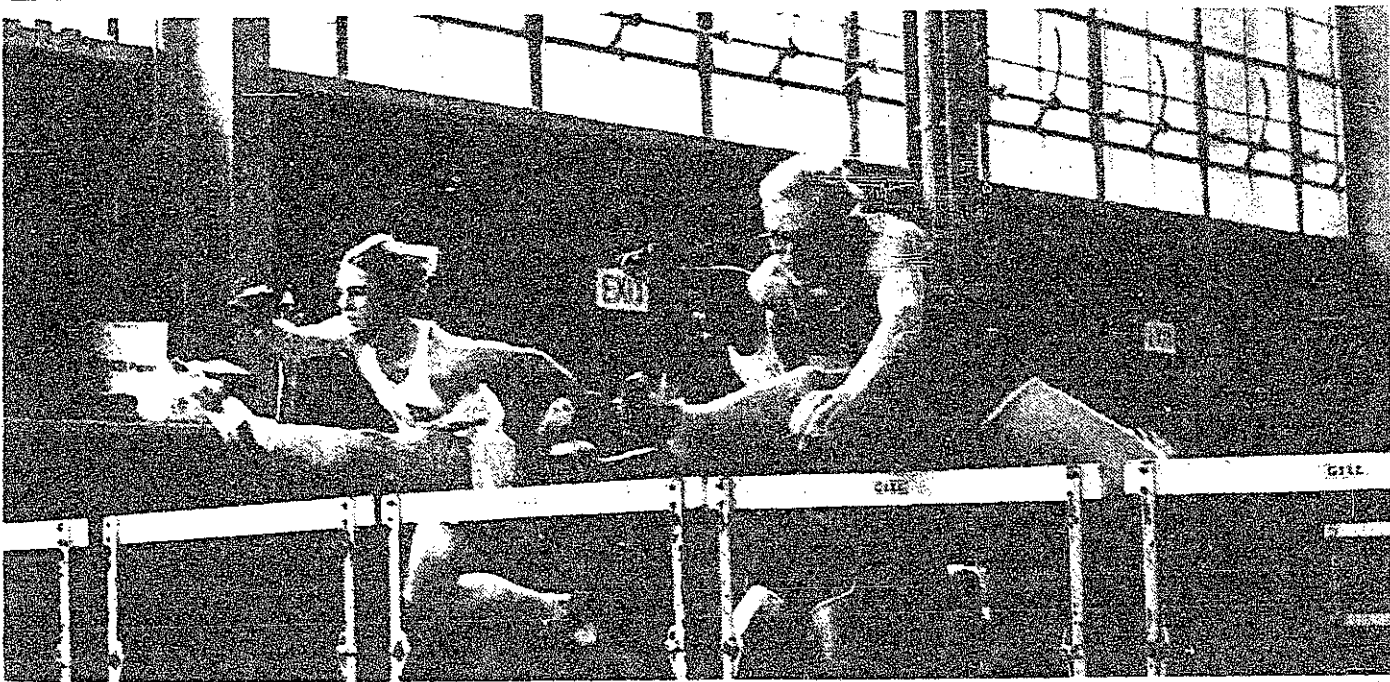
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## Tronnier places in IC4A's

By Mike Charette

The MIT indoor track season has ended with the thincads sporting a 6-2 record, and had provided some of the best team effort on the championship level in recent years.

The highlight of the past few weeks has been high hurdler Bob Tronnier '73, who, in setting the New England record and taking sixth place at the IC4A's, has emerged as the team's premier track athlete since Ben Wilson.

The extraordinary results started with the New England Indoor Track Championships at Colby. It was there that Tronnier defeated everyone, first in the trials (7.5 seconds), then the semi-finals (7.4), and then in the finals with a time of 7.3 seconds. This established a New England and MIT record in the 60-yard highs, as well as a personal best. A fast start enabled Tronnier to wipe out his competitors, including archrival Don Slevin of Tufts. It was Slevin's quick speed out of the blocks which was instrumental in handing Tronnier his only loss earlier in the regular season.

Junior Brian Moore registered

a personal best in the 35-lb. weight throw of 57'8½" and heaved the 16-lb. shot 50'9" to take two third-place medals at the New Englands. Moore's mark in the weight throw was a two foot improvement over last year.

Dave Wilson '73 launched himself to a height of 15' to take third place in the pole vault, while Scott Peck '73 took fourth in the long jump with a 22'1" bound.

The efforts of four athletes gave MIT 17 points and a fifth place team finish. Tronnier, Moore and Wilson were subsequently named to the All-New England track squad.

At the IC4A's in Princeton, Tronnier ran into some very tough opposition. He took second in his trial heat, third in the semis, but stumbled at the start of the finals. By the time he reached the first hurdle, his timing was off and he finished in sixth place with a time of 7.6 seconds. The winning time was 7.3, but Tronnier felt that his best on that track could only have been 7.4, due to the sponginess of the Tartan surface.

In the weight throw, Moore

placed eighth throwing 55'7", but did not reach the finals. A pulled back muscle earlier in the week hampered his attempts. Wilson cleared 14'6" in the pole vault, but problems involving nicking the bar on the way down with his arms caused him to fail at 15'.

MIT's indoor season was exceptional, not only in the good showings at the end, but also in the records set. Besides Tronnier's record in the 60-yd. high hurdles, Dave Wilson cleared 15'1½" in the pole vault and Yaw Akoto '74 tri-bounded 45'11½" in the triple jump to establish new records. Finally, Tom Hansen '74, Bill Leimkuhler '73, Chip Kimball '72 and Bob Myers '72 rewrote the books with a 10:20.2 clocking in the distance relay.

A brief review of other events shows several bright lights. The outstanding boon to the team was frosh Gary "S.B." Wilkes, who continuously led the team in the sprinting department. It must be recalled that the team lost most of its sprinters, since, in the words of co-captain Wilson, "Track is forever fighting a war of attrition with academia!"

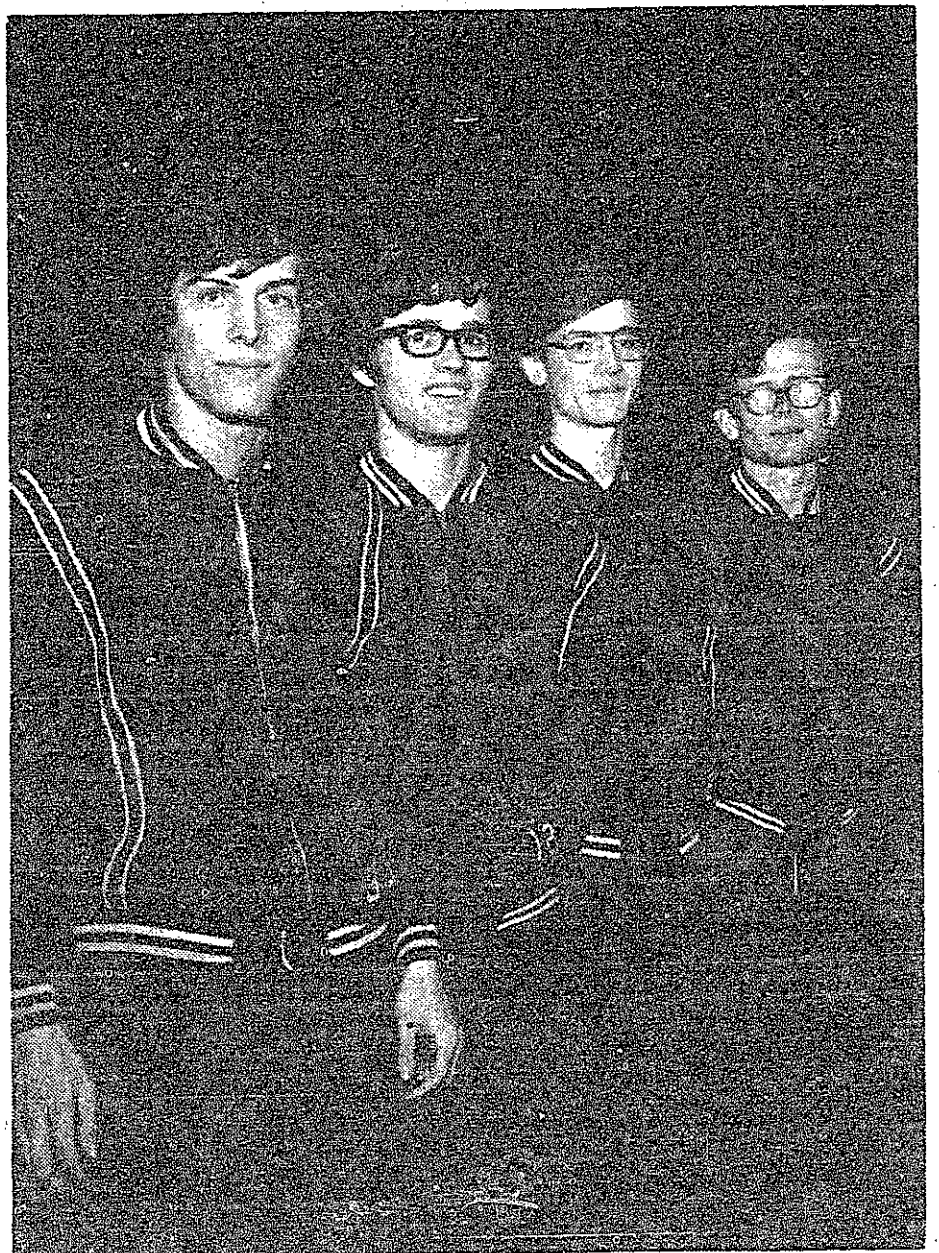
In the middle distances, the dynamic duo of Hansen and Leimkuhler continued to dominate. In the long distances, Walt Hill '73 and Paul Puffe '75 assured MIT of some future capabilities after Myers and Craig Lewis '72 depart. Lewis lowered his time in the two-mile by over ten seconds this year and ranked high in the individual point scoring.

## Ruggers start spring drills

The MIT Ruggers donned sweats on Tuesday for the beginning of the spring season. The schedule for this spring is made up of school and club teams in the New England area, including archrival Harvard Business School. The icing on the cake of course is the New England Rugby Football Union Tournament in May. Tech's Ruggers have a crowd to pick from last year's tournament. Due to poor scheduling MIT was forced to play three games in one day. The third match was dropped to a Tufts team that had played only one game.

The MITRFC is composed of a broad cross section of the MIT community — undergraduate, graduate, and foreign students, as well as faculty. It is in fact the only established MIT team which allows the some 4000 graduate students to compete athletically outside the MIT community. The club is run by its membership with the sanction and nominal cooperation from the Athletics Department. The common interest of ruggers is intense physical competition on the pitch (field) and social

## SPORTS



Championship level performances marked this year's 6-2 track varsity. Bob Tronnier '73, left, set a 60 yd. high hurdles New England record. Above, Tom Hansen '74, Bill Leimkuhler '73, Chip Kimball '72 and Bob Myers '72 now hold the distance medley relay record. Selected All-New England track stars were, below, Dave Wilson '73, Brian Moore '73 and Tronnier.

Photos by Dave Tenenbaum (top left) and Jet



## BENCHWARMER

By Rick Henning and Dan Gantt

What a way to run a railroad!

The only real controversy to evolve at last Tuesday night's IM Council Meeting concerned softball manager Mike Cucchissi's proposed rules changes which were discussed in our column of March 14. After the other IM managers or their proxies presented their perfunctory reports, Cucchissi was called upon to present his plans for the upcoming softball season. Immediately thereafter, he was attacked by a number of the living group representatives in attendance. Drawing upon his vast experience with IM softball during this, his freshman year at MIT, Cucchissi claimed that the changes were necessary to upgrade the quality of play witnessed during his senior year of high school. Heated debate then followed with those having entered teams that would be affected by the changes attacking the new rules and Cucchissi's fellow IM managers supporting them.

A vote to test Cucchissi's strength finally arose over the controversial "three-swing rule," eliminating the foul ball on the third strike. A three-fifths vote of those present is necessary to overrule a manager's wishes. While the vote was decisively in Cucchissi's favor, 14 2/3 to 10 1/3, a breakdown of the vote yields some interesting results. Of the 14 2/3 votes, eleven came from the IM managers. Furthermore, only three managers opposed the change, with one diplomatically abstaining. The living groups, i.e. with player representatives, voted against the "three-swing" rule by a two-to-one majority. Obviously, due to the superior power wielded by the manager's clique, the opposition to the rules changes failed.

After this defeat, Mr. Cucchissi said that he would be open to change, but those who opposed his rules were discouraged by the early results and mounted no other concerted effort. It appeared to us that the other managers would have backed Cucchissi even had he tried to add a fifth base to the playing field.

We have received many irate comments regarding these rules changes. Players from Baker, Burton, DTD, Senior House and others have expressed their opposition to the new rules. Several persons have even suggested the formation of an independent league. We urge those persons considering such moves to at least attempt to reason with Cucchissi before acting.

We would like to express our sincere apologies to those who supported us in our unsuccessful attempt at rousing the IM Council to action. To our dismay, a knowledge of and interest in softball was not needed; a knowledge of IM Council politics was.

conviviality off the field, at the traditional after game party, at the local pub, or in the halls of the 'Tute.

Although the club has been in existence since 1949, the large increase in interest and number of clubs is much more recent. Rugby is now an activity which one can continue to enjoy in most US cities of moderate size and to ripe old middle age (MIT's "Old Man" Walker is 32.) Since the sport is expanding so rapidly, rank beginners have an opportunity to test their mettle against those who were weaned on the sport (mostly immigrant), and learn the game at the same time.

Anyone in the MIT community interested in the game is invited to come to one of the practices which are held

every Tuesday and Thursday evening at 7:30 pm in Rockwell Cage. For any additional information, contact Wayne Book (captain) x3770, or Ron Prinn (president) x2452.

Second-class postage paid at Boston, Massachusetts. The Tech is published twice a week during the college year, except during college vacations, and once during the first week in August, by The Tech, Room W20-483, MIT Student Center, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. Telephone: Area Code 617 864-6900 extension 2731 or 1541. United States Mail subscription rates: \$5.00 for one year, \$9.00 for two years.

Friday, March 17, 1972

